A Tool for Collecting Good Practices for Combating Desertification in the Horn of Africa

By

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For
African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa

Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management (CADEP-SFM)

Introduction

This tool has been developed to help identify, collect, document and evaluate good practices in natural resources management within the Sahel and Horn of Africa. A good practice may be defined as a technology, technique, an approach or innovation that has been tested, validated, and adopted by a group of end users with great success in: combating desertification; rehabilitating degraded land; enhancing land productivity and mitigating and adapting to climate change consequently leading to sustainable natural resource management.

The tool will assist in capturing good practices through: giving detailed specifications of the practice; identifying problems the practice addresses; describing environment it is applicable, highlighting inputs required and cost implication for its implementation; describing how the practice is carried out, its impacts, and highlighting any challenges encountered in its implementation.

The data collected through the tool will provide an information database for: sharing existing knowledge and experiences; as well as developing relevant dissemination materials such as; manuals, guidelines, briefs, leaflets and brochures for use in the Sahel and Horn of Africa.

Information on good practices can be sourced from; farmers, pastoralists and communities who have adopted and benefited from the good practice, as well as technical experts involved in development and dissemination of good practices.

NB: For each good practice:
- **A separate questionnaire should be filled**
- **Photographs and videos should be captured**
- **Illustrations may also be provided**

Start time: ……………………………….....

End time: ……………………………….....

Time taken: ………………………………….....

1.0   General Information

1.1   Name of the good practice……………………………………………...
Local name of the good practice (if available) ………………………………….....
Country where the practice is being undertaken…………………………………

1.2   Questionnaire coding
Questionnaire Number/Code…………………………………………...............
Date of interview: Date: ……………… Month: ……………. Year: ....

1.3   Interviewers details

No.	Interviewer's name	Name of institution	Address	Phone number	E-mail
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

1.4   Interviewee's details
Category of persons interviewed
- Individual [ ]
- Group **[ ]**
- Group representative **[ ]**

Name of individual or group/group representative interviewed: ....
....
If the interviewee is a group representative indicate the position the interviewee holds in the
group: ....
Address: ....
Country: ....
State/ Province/ County/ District: ....
Locality/ village: ....

GPS co-ordinates:
     Latitude: ....
     Longitude: ....
     Altitude: ....
Phone number(s): ....
E-mail Address: ....
Occupation: ....
Gender: Male [   ]   Female [   ]
Age in years: <20 [   ]; 21 - 30 [   ]; 31-40 [   ]; 41- 50 [   ]; 51- 60 [   ]; 61- 70 [   ]; >71 [   ].

For groups, indicate number of members by gender: Number of males   [   ]
Number of females [   ]

1.5   Highest level of formal education of interviewee
1. None [   ]
2. Primary school [   ]
3. Secondary school [   ]
4. College [   ]
5. University [   ]
6. Vocational training (Technical school) [   ]
7. Others (specify) ……………………

2.0   Overview of the Good Practice
2.1   Description of the good practice
This section should fully describe the practice by addressing the following issues:
   a) What was the initial situation and challenges before adopting the practice? …

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b) Under what environmental conditions is the practice applicable? (technical expert may complete this section or assist the interviewee)

Environmental conditions	Description of condition/
Agro-climatic conditions	• Humid [ ] • Semi-arid [ ] • Arid [ ] • Deserts [ ] • Others (specify)…….………………...
Average annual rainfall	Indicate amounts in mm
Seasonality of rainfall	• Bimodal (two seasons per year) [ ] • Unimodal (one season per year) [ ]
Temperature	Indicate range (Minimum and Maximum in ^{0}C)
Soil characteristics	**Texture** • Sandy [ ] • Clay [ ] • Loam [ ] • Others (specify)………………………
	Depth • Shallow [ ] • Deep [ ] • Others (specify)………………………
	pH • Acid soils [ ] • Alkaline soils [ ] • Neutral [ ]
	Soil fertility • Very high [ ] • High [ ] • Medium [ ] • Low [ ] • Very low [ ]
Gradient	• **Flat** [ ] • **Gentle** [ ]

	• **Sloppy** [ ]
	• **Steep** [ ]
	• **Others** [ ]

c) What is the current land use system or niche (position on farm) where the practice is applied? Tick as appropriate;

Cropland (   ),

Pastoral (   ),

Forest/woodlands (   )

Agroforestry system (crops/livestock/trees) (   )

Settlement/homestead (   )

Riverine (   )

Wetlands (   )

Others (specify):

d) What are the characteristics of the technology users applying the practice in terms of the following:
   i) Way of life/ living: Sedentary (   ) or nomadic (   ), Others: ……………………
   ii) Production system: Subsistence (   ), commercial (   ) mixed (subsistence and commercial) (   )
   iii) Gender: male (   ) or female (   ) both (   )
   iv) Age: youth (   ), middle age (   ) or elderly (   )
   v) Total land size ………………………(ha)
   vi) Land tenure system communal (   ), individual /private (   ), trust land (   )
   vii) Water source : rainfall (   ), mixed (rainfall and irrigated) (   ), fully irrigated (   )
   viii)   Others (specify): …………………………………………………….

2.2   Photographs, illustrations and video of the practice
a) Provide photographs or illustrations that show:
   i) Details and features of the practice.
   ii) The situation before the intervention, (if available).
   iii) The situation after the intervention.

b) Provide videos of the good practice that may include interviews with farmers, technology users, and technical staff.

   Provide a short description of the video inform of text. (use the highest quality of the video)

3.0   Implementation and Adoption of Good Practice
a) How was the practice identified?

   ……………………………………………………………………………………………

   ……………………………………………………………………………………………

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b) How was the practice acquired or introduced?
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c) How was the practice established?
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d) How is the practice being maintained?
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e) What is the size of land under the practice (ha)?
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....

f) Which stakeholders were involved in the development, promotion and implementation of the practice?
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....
....

g) What category of technology users are able to practice the good practice
- Resource rich
- Resource poor
- Both

List the inputs required in terms of
- Equipment

- Materials

h) Is the good practice Labour intensive?   Yes [   ]   No [   ]
i) Are family members involved in the activities?   Yes [   ]   No [   ]
j) If yes which family members are involved in the activities?
  1. ....

2. ………………………………………
3. ………………………………………
4. ………………………………………
5. ………………………………………

k) How are family members specified above involved in the activities?

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l) Have you disseminated the good practice to others?   Yes [   ]   No [   ]
   If yes, about how many people have you disseminated to?

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   If no, why have you not disseminated?

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m) For how long have you been implementing the practice? (Indicate time in years)……………………………………………………………………………………………

n) Have you made any modifications to the practice?
   Yes [   ]
   No [   ]

   If yes, specify modifications made on the good practice and reasons why.

Modification	Reasons for modification

4.0   Impact
What are the impacts of the good practice? Consider socio-economic, socio-cultural, ecological impacts as follows:

a) Socio-economic impacts
What are the socio-economic impacts derived from the good practice?

Parameter	Increased/ improved	Decreased/ reduced	No change	Not applicable
Production of crops				

Pasture/fodder,				
Wood (timber, fuelwood)				
Non-Timber Forest Products				
Product diversity/ biodiversity				
Income				
Input				
Labour				
Costs				
Standards of living				
Others (specify)				

b) Socio-cultural impacts

What are the socio-cultural impacts derived from the good practice?

Parameter	Increased/ improved	Decreased	No change	Not applicable
Food security				
Health				
Aesthetic values				
Effects on women and youth				
Knowledge by land users				
Conflict mitigation				
Others (Specify)				

c) Ecological impacts

What are the ecological impacts derived from the good practice?

Parameter	Increased/ improved	Decreased	No change	Not applicable
Soil fertility				
Soil and water conservation				
Biodiversity				
Vegetation cover				
Animals' habitat				
Invasive species				
Water quality and quantity				
Pests/diseases				
Resilience to Climate change				
Others (Specify)				

d) Negative impacts

Indicate any negative impacts that may have been experienced, associated with the good practice.

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5.0   Capacity Building

5.1   Training

a) Was there training provided to the technology users involved in implementation or promotion of the good practice?

  Yes [   ]

  No [   ]

b) If yes what was the form of training undertaken?

- Field site visits [   ]
- Farmer-to-farmer [   ]
- Farmer Field School [   ]
- Farmer exchange visits [   ]
- On-farm trials [   ]
- Demonstration sites   [   ]
- Field days   [   ]
- Training courses [   ]
- Others (specify): ....

5.2   Advisory service

a) Do you have access to advisory services?

  Yes [   ]   No [   ]

If yes, who provides the services?

- Government Extension Services [   ] (specify)..
- Academic and Research Institutes [   ] (specify)..
- NGOs [   ] (specify)..
- Pay services [   ] (specify)..
- Others (specify)..

b) Where else do you get advisory services?

- Radio [   ]
- TV [   ]
- Farmer alerts [   ]
- Printed materials [   ]
- Open/field days [   ]
- Agricultural shows [   ]
- Farmer Field School [   ]
- Social media [   ]
- SMS alerts [   ]
- Others (specify)………………………………………………………… …

6.0   Sustainability of the good practice activities
a) Did you get external support to implement the good practice?

Yes [   ]

No [   ]

If yes indicate the the source and support provided

Support provided	Source of support

b) Are you able to sustain the practice without external support?

Yes [   ]

No [   ]

c) If yes, please explain……………………………………………………………………..

……………………………………………………………………………………………

d) If no, please explain……………………………………………………………………..

………………………………………………………………………………………………

e) Are you expanding the practice in your farm?

Yes [   ]

No [   ]

If no please explain……………………………………………………………………..

7.0   Constraints
a) What challenges have you encountered in applying the good practice and how have you addressed these challenges?

Challenges encountered	Solution to the identified challenges

8.0   Lessons Learnt
What are the main lessons learnt from the good practice?

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9.0   Conclusion

Indicate the most important finding; impact and usefulness of the good practice.

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NB: Some information on this questionnaire has been adapted from WOCAT (www.wocat.net)